



SOUTHEAST NEWS

September - October 2009

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250

423-1611

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year. We had an energizing Opening Day Ceremony to kick off the new year.



This year's school wide theme, T.E.A.M.- Together Everyone Achieves More, makes me think of a great quote by Mark Twain- "Synergy --the bonus that is achieved when things work together harmoniously". Synergy was certainly evident this week during our first few days of school as energy and excitement permeated throughout our building. I look forward to working with you, your children and the Southeast staff to continue the synergy throughout the school year.

Hope to see you at our Open House on Wednesday, September 9th.

With Regards,
Norma Fisher-Doiron

OPEN HOUSE




**Please join us on
Wednesday
September 9, 2009
6:30 to 7:30 pm**

**All students and families
are invited
to visit with
teachers in their classrooms.**






Calendar of Events

September

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| Sept 3..... | 8:35-9:15 Bus Evacuation Drill | |
| Sept. 7..... | NO SCHOOL - Labor Day |  |
| Sept. 9..... | 6:30-7:30 Open House | |
| Sept 11..... | 9:15 Character Ed. Assembly Schoolwide | |
| Sept. 10..... | 7:30 Board of Education Meeting | |
| Sept. 14..... | 7:00 PTO Meeting | |
| Sept. 15..... | 8:15-8:45 Enrichment Team Meeting
3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club |  |
| Sept 20..... | Rosh Hashanah | |
| Sept. 24..... | 7:00 Board of Education Meeting | |
| Sept. 26..... | 10:00 - 3:00 Fall Carnival |  |
| Sept. 28..... | Yom Kippur | |

October

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| Oct. 5..... | 6:00 Parents' Hour:
iParentNetwork.org w/Barbara Casey
7:00 PTO Meeting | |
| Oct. 7..... | 4:00-6:30 Southeast Children Flu Mist & Vaccine Clinic
(details to follow) | |
| Oct. 8..... | 7:30 Board of Education Meeting |  |
| Oct. 12..... | NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day | |
| Oct. 13..... | NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day | |
| Oct. 20..... | 8:15-8:45 Enrichment Team Meeting
3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club |  |
| Oct. 29..... | Individual and class photos by Lifetouch | |
| Oct. 22..... | 7:30 Board of Education Meeting | |
| Oct. 30..... | Mobile Dentist |  |
| Oct. 31..... | Halloween | |

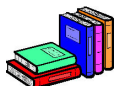


Bus Schedule Changes

Please notify the office as soon as possible of any change in your child's transportation needs. Bus change forms and Bus Guest forms are available in the school office and on our website. Please remember that district policy requires that the proper forms be used for bus changes and visitations. (refer to District wide Handbook)

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please visit our website www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast



Stories for Southeast

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

We would like to thank the individuals below for purchasing the following books for our school library:

•**Dinosaur Trouble** .. For my Godmother, Martha Tabasweski, in loving memory ... From Helenanne Sipple

•**The Mystery** .. For our Aunt, Martha Tabasweski, you will be missed.... From, The Gomolkas

•**Bears** .. Dedicated to Pre-school in honor of Norma Fisher Doiron, Connecticut's 2008 National Distinguished Principal. Thank you for your dedication to Southeast School and our children.... From, The Southeast PTO

•**An Island Grows** .. Dedicated to Kindergarten in honor of Norma Fisher Doiron, Connecticut's 2008 National Distinguished Principal. Thank you for your dedication to Southeast School and our children.... From, The Southeast PTO

•**A Second is a Hiccup** .. Dedicated to First Grade in honor of Norma Fisher Doiron, Connecticut's 2008 National Distinguished Principal. Thank you for your dedication to Southeast School and our children... From, The Southeast PTO

•**Our Abe Lincoln** ...Dedicated to Second Grade in honor of Norma Fisher Doiron, Connecticut's 2008 National Distinguished Principal. Thank you for your dedication to Southeast School and our children.... From, The Southeast PTO

•**Papi's Gift** ...Dedicated to Third Grade in honor of Norma Fisher Doiron, Connecticut's 2008 National Distinguished Principal. Thank you for your dedication to Southeast School and our children.... From, The Southeast PTO

•**Let's Go Pegasus** .. Dedicated to Fourth Grade in honor of Norma Fisher Doiron, Connecticut's 2008 National Distinguished Principal. Thank you for your dedication to Southeast School and our children.... From, The Southeast PTO

•**Minerva Louise and the Colorful Egg** For Pat O'Connell-Buckley. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement.... From Norma Fisher-Doiron

•**Look Both Way** For Pat O'Connell-Buckley. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement.... From Norma Fisher-Doiron

•**Back To School is Cool**... For Lisa Ward. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your new endeavor.... From Norma Fisher-Doiron

•**Lentil** ... For Pat O'Connell-Buckley. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement....From, The Southeast PTO

•**One Morning in Maine** ... For Pat O'Connell-Buckley. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement....From, The Southeast PTO

•**Make Way for the Ducklings**... For Pat O'Connell-Buckley. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement....From, The Southeast PTO

•**Blueberries for Sal** ... For Pat O'Connell-Buckley. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement....From, The Southeast PTO

•**Homer Price** ... For Pat O'Connell-Buckley. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement....From, The Southeast PTO

•**The Whistle on the Train** ... Dedicated to the Students of Southeast School in honor of custodians, Bill Bradley and Angel Ortiz... From the Southeast Staff

•**Bedroom Makeover Crafts** ... Dedicated to the Students of Southeast School in honor of our amazing Secretarial Staff, Nancy Banfield and Jane Hazzard.... From the Southeast Staff

•**Parrotfish (Oceans Alive)** ... Dedicated to the Students of Southeast School in honor of our wonderful Cafeteria Staff, Maureen Gagne and Sarah Fraser... From the Southeast Staff

•**The Houdini Box** ...Dedicated to Kim O'Keefe with great appreciation for all that you have done on behalf of the PTO and Southeast Students! From the Southeast Staff and PTO

•**Dance!** ... Dedicated to Kim O'Keefe with great appreciation for all that you have done on behalf of the PTO and Southeast Students! From the Southeast Staff and PTO

•**Extreme Rocks and Minerals**... Dedicated to Kim O'Keefe with great appreciation for all that you have done on behalf of the PTO and Southeast Students! From the Southeast Staff and PTO

•**Dinosaurs!** ... For Mr. Rameaka - Thank you for two generations of knowledge.. From, The Porter Family

•**The Amazing Ghost Detectives** ... To the entire Southeast Community. Thank you for the constant love and support that has helped Amy become a happy and healthy 4th grader.... From, The Porter family

If you are interested in purchasing a book for our library, please contact Linda Sydnie at 423-1282 or lsydnie@snet.net for more information.

Join Southeast School's E-Mail and Text Messaging Notification Service

Southeast Elementary School uses the QNotify Messaging Service to enhance communication with families via e-mail and cell phone or pager text messaging. You can sign-up to receive free notices from Southeast Elementary School informing you of announcements about school events and groups.

This service is free of charge and signing-up is fast and easy. You can enter e-mail addresses and/or cellular devices. You choose which addresses receive only emergency or priority notifications and which addresses receive all notifications. There is no cost to sign-up for this service (your phone provider's normal text messaging charges will apply if you sign-up your cellular device). Your contact information will never be sold or distributed, and there is no advertising attached to this service.



To sign up log on to our website:
www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast
and click on QNotify
or sign up at Open House on
Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 pm

Help Children Be Fit Through Daily Physical Activity

- Make sure kids get at least one hour of physical activity a day. Fun activities work best- try bicycling, dancing, jump rope, playing basketball or going for a walk.
- Limit children's TV, video game and Internet use.
- Prepare healthful meals at home. Offer children fruits and vegetables at every meal and snack.
- Don't let children drink their calories. Choose water and low-fat milk, not juice or high-calorie, sugar-sweetened beverages, such as sodas.
- Encourage children to take advantage of healthy food choices provided at school.



Mansfield Now Recycles All Plastic Containers



Effective immediately, the Town recycling contractor will take all types of plastic containers with the cans and bottles grouping. Plastic containers are no longer limited to #1 and #2 types. Examples of acceptable plastic containers include buckets, take-out containers, yogurt containers and cups. Please remove all food and rinse out containers. These plastics can be grouped with metal cans, aluminum foil and trays, milk and juice cartons, drink boxes, glass bottles and jars.

The plastics that are not to be included in the grouping are garden hoses, plastic bags and any kind of Styrofoam. Styrofoam peanuts are accepted for reuse at the Mansfield transfer station. Plastic bags are recycled at the transfer station, Big Y or Champion's store.

The Town of Mansfield may very soon be changing to a simpler way of collecting cans, bottles, paper and cardboard. To stay informed on the status of single stream recycling, go to www.mansfieldct.org and click on Trash and Recycling.

Catherine Grenier Makes a Difference



Last spring, then Kindergartner, Catherine Grenier decided to make a difference. She asked her teacher, Mrs. Brown, her fellow classmates and Mrs. Irvine to help her organize an Animal Shelter Charity Drive at Southeast School. Through the charitable donations from Southeast Families, Cat and her classmates were able to donate a whole trunk full of pet supplies to the Mansfield Animal Shelter. We asked Cat a few questions about it and here's what she had to say:

Q: What made you think of doing a fund drive for the animal shelter?

A: One day I made a bank and wanted to use it to save money for charity. I thought, "What kind of charity can I help?". I told my mom and she suggested I ask Mrs. Irvine for help. With the help of Mrs. Irvine and Mrs. Brown, we made it a class project.

Q: How do you think it helped the animals?

A: I think it helps the animals because the dogs get new treats and the cats get to try new foods and if they don't get a new home right away they have stuff to keep them calm and happy.

Q: Were you happy with the amount of items you were able to collect?

A: Yes, I was very happy. We had my mom's trunk full of donations.

Q: What was the animal shelter's response to the items you collected?

A: They thought the stuff I collected was great and they said the animals would love it! I got to give treats to the dogs after we brought the donations into the shelter.

Q: Are you planning on running this fund drive again this school year?

A: Yes, I am going to help the kindergarteners do the project even though I will be in first grade. Thank you everybody for your help and let's get more on the next drive!

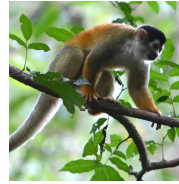
Thank You to Our Custodians and Summer Maintenance Staff

We are pleased to recognize and thank our dedicated custodians and summer maintenance staff who worked through the summer getting our building ready for the start of a new year. This is the time when carpets are shampooed, floors are stripped and waxed, windows are washed, painting projects are completed, rearrangements of furniture and equipment are accomplished, and every surface is cleaned and polished.

This summer is an excellent example of the professionalism that our maintenance staff displayed, day in and day out, as they completed many major projects to ensure that our building is shining for the opening day of school.



Zachary Mindetto, Mel Ryan, Joey Kolomyjec, Marc Arrigoni, Seth Sharpe, Bill Bradley, Angel Ortiz, Jason Gaudreau



CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

gratefully recognizes
Southeast Elementary School

for protecting 6.3 acres in one of nature's most magical and unique places on Earth: The Rainforests of Madagascar

Find out what you can do by visiting earthfound.com

Saving the Rainforest One Acre at a Time

Special Olympics Winners Circle



We are pleased to announce that Southeast Elementary School is a member of the Special Olympics Winners Circle at the Bronze Level.

A generous contribution has been made in honor of Mrs. Fisher-Doiron by the students of Southeast Elementary School with the following message: "Mrs. Fisher-Doiron was named Connecticut's 2008-2009 National Distinguished Principal and her promotion of health and wellness has positively impacted us. She has always been a strong advocate for the most needy and her favorite charity is Special Olympics. We are proud to send this donation in her honor."

Reminders For the Kids: Back-To-School-Bus-Safety-Rules

1. Stand on the same side of the street as the bus stop.
2. Don't goof around while waiting, and stay on the sidewalk.
3. Be alert to traffic.
4. Always walk in front of -not behind- the bus.
5. Don't rush for the bus. Move toward the door only after the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's OK to board.
6. Hold onto the handrail when getting on and off the bus.
7. Never stand up or walk around while the bus is moving.
8. Move away from the bus quickly after getting off. Let them know not to worry if they leave something behind.
9. Always obey the bus driver.



-Parents Magazine/MCT

Sarah Sommer and Smaranda Solomon

Awarded Second Place
in the
Massachusetts 21st
Science Poetry Contest



We congratulate Sarah Sommer and Smaranda Solomon for being chosen out of 1,500 participants to have their poems published. Their hard work and creativity is exemplified through their science poems, which integrate science and literacy together.



PTO Updates & Events:

2009 -2010 PTO OFFICERS

President.....Julie Brown
Vice President.....Andrea Lennon
Treasurer.....Kimberly Clark
Secretary.....Jennie Novick

Congratulations to the new officers!

Hello and welcome to a new school year!

The Parent-Teacher Organization brings together parents, teachers, and the principal to support programs at Southeast.

Every parent or guardian of a Southeast student is automatically a PTO member. With our hectic schedules it is sometimes hard to find the time to help out, but volunteering can be as simple as making cookies for a bake sale or staffing a table for an hour. We also have PTO meetings the first Monday of every month (except for the meeting in Sept. which is Sept. 14). These meetings last for about an hour, and free childcare is available right across the hall. We encourage you to attend so you can have an input in what programs the PTO supports.

We have many events and activities planned for this year, including the Fall Carnival, science and math night, young authors day, family night at the UConn ice skating rink, and the spring school dance. In addition to these events, the PTO sponsors speakers, artists, and storytellers for school assemblies.

The upcoming Fall Carnival is the PTO's biggest fundraiser of the year. It's where we hope to raise over half of our funds. So if you can help in any capacity, it would be most appreciated. Contact Andrea Lennon at 455-2100 or email her at stevlen4@charter.net to volunteer, and don't forget to bid on the fantastic items at the Silent Auction.

Open House is Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This is a chance for you to meet the principal and teachers and become familiar with the school. The PTO will have a table set up in the gym. Be sure to come by and meet Andrea and me.

Thanks,
Julie Brown
PTO president
julie.medill@yahoo.com

PTO Meeting Dates:

Please consider attending our meetings, which are normally held on the first Monday of every month. Agendas are sent home with your child. Child care is available by contacting the school office before the meeting.



Sept. 14 Oct. 5 Nov. 2 Jan. 4 Feb. 1
Mar. 1 Apr. 1 May 3 June 7

Southeast Carnival

Saturday, September 26th
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Join us for a day of fun with friends.

*-games and prizes -silent auction -horse
 & carriage rides*

-cake walk -moon bounce -face painting

-nail design

*-crafts -bake sale -refreshments and
 much, much more*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FALL CARNIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 26th

Volunteers are desperately needed to help set up, clean up, monitor crafts & games, run the bake sale & cake walk, cook or work the concession stand. Volunteers can work in shifts, so just a few hours of your time would be a big help to us! If you can help out, please contact Andrea Lennon at 455-2100 or stevlen4@charter.net.

SOUTHEAST STUDENT DIRECTORY FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR



The Southeast PTO is looking to update and create a new student directory for Southeast Families. In 2006, it proved to be a useful form of communication between SE families. All students should have received a directory information form in their opening day packets to be completed by parents/guardians. Please complete this form and return it to school as soon as possible. We are expecting to distribute the new list by October 2009. For anyone wishing to opt out of the directory, please follow directions on the bottom of the form.

**SHOW YOUR SCHOOL PRIDE WITH A
SOUTHEAST SCHOOL MAGNET!**

Be sure to stop by the PTO Table at the Open House and pick up a Southeast School magnet. Magnets can be used indoors or outdoors. After Open House, magnets can be purchased in the school office. Cost: \$2.00.

